

Today's Live News of the Sunshine State

Water Resources of San Juan Valley Limitless In Extent

DROUGHTS DO NOT AFFECT FARMERS OF THAT AREA

Abundant Irrigation Insures Crops of Finest Sort; River Looks Like Missouri Rather Than New Mexico.

(Staff Correspondence.)

FARMINGTON, N. M., July 17.—To understand fully the resources and possibilities of the San Juan valley of New Mexico a visit is necessary. Then the magnitude of these resources, and the almost limitless opportunity for development fairly strike one in the face. We drove into the San Juan valley from the Shiprock Indian agency over a turnpiked road, at a speed of thirty miles an hour; a speed which it was not necessary to abate half a dozen times in the thirty miles from Shiprock to Farmington. During nearly all of this distance we were driving through alfalfa fields and orchards; fields of grain and corn, and with a river in sight which looked more like the Missouri than a New Mexico desert stream. Most of us who read New Mexico printed matter know that more water flows through the San Juan in a year, after it receives the water of the La Plata and the Animas at Farmington, than through all the rest of New Mexico streams combined. But you do not realize just what that means until you see the San Juan broad and deep and swift; running bank full in this season after all the snow water is gone and the floods are over. There has been no rain along the San Juan watershed for sixty days, yet every irrigating ditch is full and in spite of millions of acre feet of water taken out from the Colorado line to Shiprock, not a fraction of a foot has been marked on the river gauges. It is water enough to reclaim a million acres of land. Government measurements prove it, and when one sees the river itself, the big figures become reasonable and plain.

The irrigation systems of the Farmington district are modern and efficient. The canals are broad and straight. The service is permanent and reliable and abundant. That is why the tators along the dusty roads are bright green and beautiful in spite of a period of no rain which would have burned up almost any irrigated district in the state. This first huge advantage the San Juan irrigated districts have—an almost limitless and a certain water supply at all seasons and for all purposes. This resource alone would insure the permanent prosperity and the eventual development of the farm lands surrounding Farmington and Aztec and stretching away fan-like along the three big rivers which rise in the

Colorado hills.

Rio Grande to Broad Gauge.
Just one thing the San Juan country needs. This is an outlet. The business men of Farmington and Aztec just this week have had word that a surveying corps is being put in the field to lay lines for standard gauging the Denver and Rio Grande during Durango. This will 'help some' since it will eliminate the ruinous traffic transfer at Durango, which makes shipment of delicate fruits almost impossible. They tell you of it with bated breath and in a whisper, a great is their fear that something will happen now to delay the long needed improvement.

But even the standard gauging of the Rio Grande road will not relieve this need of an outlet. What the San Juan wants and must have, is an outlet to the south; into New Mexico, its home and its natural market. When a railroad outlet will come it is hard to say. The motor road outlet will come very soon; even if the men of Farmington have to get out and build it themselves with their own shovels and teams. These people are now forced in trade in Colorado. They are eager to get into closer touch with New Mexico, and especially with Albuquerque. They want to give us their huge business and they need very much the help we can give them.

The Wasted Fruit Crop.
Albuquerque women who are raising taxes prices for tasteless California cherries to be used in pies, and who are longing for cherries cheap enough to be put up, will be interested to know that one may go out into the cherry orchards here, just now loaded down with delicious fruit, ripe and about to drop, and gather this same fruit and carry it away, for exactly ten cents a gallon. One grower told me that he had 6,000 cases of cherries which he would permit to drop, for lack of a market. When I showed incredulity he took me to his orchard and showed me the trees; a whole orchard of laden cherry trees; the finest cherries I ever saw. Mind you he is but one of a hundred orchardists who have cherry trees just like those described.

A woman who makes a specialty of red and black raspberries showed me six rows of vines a quarter of a mile long, deep black with the ripened fruit. "You can have your automobile full for a dollar, if you'll pick 'em," she told us. "There is no market for them and they will rot on the vines."

It's a sad story to tell but it's true that this district is overdeveloped simply because it has no outlet. It is a sadder story for Albuquerque people who would use every pound of these soft fruits eagerly, if they could get them.

With the apples it is a different story. They will stand holding and shipping and the apple-growers gen-

erally get fairly good returns for their crops, although even they suffer severely for lack of transportation.

Some energetic growers are getting apples out by parcel post, and booking orders now for next year's business. One man told me he sent 1500 boxes of apples to Albuquerque last winter, by parcel post. He sold them for from ninety cents to a dollar a box, with fifty cents added for postage. You Albuquerque housekeepers who pay \$2.25 and \$2.75 for apples last winter, can figure out for yourselves what a parcel post trade with San Juan county would do for you.

Farmington Is Prosperous.

The town of Farmington is prosperous, busy and hopeful. The farmers around about are busy and their farms and orchards are models of weedless cleanliness. They suffer from lack of transportation, but their courage is without limit.

The Farmington chamber of commerce is a busy organization of able business men and fruit growers.

L. W. Gallegos, formerly of Albuquerque, is at his head and is giving a vigorous and successful administration.

The secretary, G. C. Smith, is a former employee of the American Lumber company. At present he is the honey magnate of this section. He shipped several car loads of honey last year and made money at it. His stands are scattered all up and down the San Juan, the La Plata and the Animas. He is going to bring an automobile load of the product to the state fair in October, coming through the Jemez mountains. It will be an exhibit well worth seeing, and will be notable as the first full auto truck shipment between the San Juan and Albuquerque.

San Juan's great exhibit to the next fair will come by rail; the Farmington people believe and hope, for the last time. In 1916 they hope to load it into the big trucks that rush mail and freight from Farmington to Shiprock. It will come through two days quicker and in 100 per cent better shape.

It is a fact which Albuquerque businessmen who want trade and Albuquerque consumers who want cheaper fruit and produce should keep in mind; think over and work out; that great agricultural district, where every condition is right for growing the finest fruit out of doors, has only one need to make its farmers and fruit growers prosperous; to build up its towns and double its land values—an outlet to the south. Albuquerque, for its own sake, should supply that outlet.

SURVEYORS IN RATON: RUMOR OF BUILDING BY SANTA FE REVIVED

RATON, N. M., July 17.—The appearance of a party of surveyors, none of whom would tell what the party was surveying, in the city the other day has revived the ancient rumor that the Santa Fe is to make improvements and extensions. The activity of the Santa Fe within the last few months adds to the impression.

Feeding Industry Starts.
The attention being paid to the Rocky Mountain road east of the city indicates in a measure the intention of the company to improve that line, and an improvement is scarcely necessary unless added tonnage is to be handled over the line, in which case it is evident that an extension is contemplated connecting the Denver with the Colorado line. This will be the greatest event in the railroad history of Raton, as it will mean that this city is to be the distributing center for all the gulf to the north business, both passenger and freight.

Santa Fe officials will make no direct statement regarding the extension.

BROAD GAUGE SURVEY STARTED BY D. & R. G.

AZTEC, N. M., July 17.—Work is to be started at once on a survey for a broad gauge road into this section by the Denver & Rio Grande railroad. A crew is to be started out of Alamogordo at once to make the survey. It is planned to start work on the top of the divide, at which point a tunnel approximately a mile in length will be bored, and survey to South Fork station on the Creede branch and to Juanita on the present line. It is estimated that it will take five or six months to complete the survey, cut stakes being set for construction engineers who will follow the survey.

The new line, which eliminates the Colorado pass, will be about 70 miles long and will shorten the distance to Alamogordo about 20 miles. The present line from Juanita to Durango will be broad-gauged and retained as part of the system.

SILVER CITY SENDS BIG DELEGATION OF MOOSE TO CONVENTION

SILVER CITY, N. M., July 17.—Silver City is sending a big delegation to the Moose convention in San Diego this week, the convention opening July 19, and continuing through the 24th. The delegation is to make a strong fight for the location of the proposed \$2,000,000 Moose sanitarium for tuberculosis at Silver City.

C. W. McSherry, dictator of the others will be; W. D. Murray, T. L. Lowe, will head the delegation. Others will be W. D. Murray, T. L. Lowe, Chris Rheis, Matt Fowler, Wayne MacVeagh, Wilson, H. H. Betts, Jackson Agee, William Bassett, Frank Vesely and R. P. Barnes.

Several thousand very attractive badges have been provided for by the Silver City delegation and the climatic advantages of this city are to be well advertised at the convention. A limited number of very handsome badges, comprising a sterling silver spoon in the shape of a pin, holding a miniature Navajo blanket, have been furnished by Delegate McSherry and these especially are certain to be eagerly sought for at the convention.

SAN JUAN COUNTY EXHIBIT AT THE FAIR IS SURE

Business of Making Display Entered in Business-Like Manner, With Manager Employed to Have Charge.

AZTEC, N. M., July 17.—San Juan county is going to make the greatest exhibit it has ever made at the state fair in the showing it has planned for next October. After talking with the Farmington Chamber of Commerce for the use of 200 running feet of exhibit hall space, the fair exhibit workers came here for a meeting with the Aztec Commercial club and the Aztec fruit growers and were tendered a reception of the most cordial kind. Action of the Aztec club was prompt and emphatic.

They voted to appropriate the necessary money to finance their end of the county exhibit, contracted for the use of 200 feet of exhibit hall space and passed a resolution asking financial support from the county commission for a united San Juan county exhibit. Joint committees will be named from the clubs of the two towns and a manager employed who will be paid a salary from now until the fair opens to collect and arrange the exhibit. The result will be a showing which every other county in the state will find it hard to equal, much less to beat. It will include not only the famous San Juan county fruit, fresh and preserved, but grains, roots, livestock, oil and coal. It is a country of varied resources. Just how varied and how extensive will be shown out of the several exhibits which are coming to the state fair.

Aztec and Farmington are much alike as to surrounding farm territory and all other resources. They are about equal in population and their business conditions seem to be much the same. Here as in Farmington the one great need is for an outlet to the south, and the Aztec people are as eager for it, and especially for a connection with Albuquerque, as are the people of Farmington.

Special Train to the Fair.

Aztec has enthusiastically seconded a suggestion made at Farmington that a San Juan excursion be sent to the state fair. The Denver & Rio Grande railroad has been asked for a special rate and a through train and has promised both, subject to a minimum guarantee of 100 passengers. This guarantee has been furnished by the commercial organizations of the two towns and the San Juan delegation to the state fair is almost a certainty.

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VALUABLE NEW LOG FOR AUTOISTS ON PRESS

El Paso Chamber of Commerce Prepares to Distribute Guides and Maps of Southwest Tour Territory.

(Special Dispatch to Evening Herald.)

EL PASO, TEX., July 17.—Robert H. Reinhardt and Harry Locks of the El Paso Automobile club, an auxiliary of the El Paso chamber of commerce, have just completed a log of the automobile routes and roads leading in every direction from El Paso, which should be of great value to the automobileists not only of the Albuquerque and the rest of the territory covered by the log, but of all auto tourists from other sections traveling through the southwest.

The new log, which is now in the hands of the auto traveling public within the next ten days or two weeks, is very complete, showing every crook and turn in the road logged, every bit of sand, and in long stretches, every ranch house at which accommodations may be had by travelers who may not be fortunate enough to reach hotel towns.

Reinhardt and Locks had already completed a log of the Borderland route from Los Angeles and San Diego through Phoenix, Tucson, Bisbee, Douglas, Lordsburg and Deming to El Paso and to this have added logs of the roads from El Paso to Albuquerque, via the Elephant Butte dam, to connect with the Ocean to Texas route; from El Paso to Alamogordo, Cloudcroft, Tularosa, Carrizozo, White Oaks and Roswell; from El Paso to Midland, Texas, by way of Artesia, Carlsbad, Pecos and Fort Stockton, and from El Paso to Alpine by way of Sierra Blanca, Valentine and Marfa. The total distance covered approximates 4,000 miles.

The new log will be issued under the auspices of the El Paso chamber of commerce and the publicity department of that organization is at work upon a system of distribution which will place the log in the hands



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of the greatest possible number of auto tourists contemplating a tour of the southwest this fall and thereafter.

COLFAX SHEEP MUST BE DIPPED BY OCTOBER

RATON, N. M., July 17.—All sheep in Colfax county must be dipped before October 1, according to the terms of a general order issued by the sheep sanitary board.

Dipping will be started at the Fer-

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